WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1	1. A method for storing value that is usable to purchase goods or services				
2	the method comprising:				
3	receiving money at a money transfer location from a potential purchaser;				
4	storing an electronic record of the received money in a stored value account of				
5	the purchaser;				
6	receiving a request from the purchaser to transfer at least a portion of the				
7	received money to a recipient;				
8	electronically sending the requested money to the recipient and debiting the				
9	stored value account.				
1	2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the money transfer location includes a				
2	device that is communicable with a host computer, and wherein the stored value account is				
3	stored in the host computer after receiving information on the received money from the				
4	device.				
1	3. A method as in claim 2, wherein the request to transfer the money is				
2	received at a server computer that is communicable with the host computer.				
1	4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the money is received from a group of				
2	money sources consisting of cash, checks, credit cards, and debit cards.				
1	5. A method as in claim 3, wherein the host computer is configured to				
2	electronically transfer the requested money to the recipient.				
1	6. A method for transferring money from a sender to a recipient, the				
2	method comprising:				
3	receiving money from the sender along with information on the recipient that				
4	is to receive the money;				
5	creating an electronic record of the money and the intended recipient;				
6	providing the recipient with various payment options for receiving the money,				
7	wherein the payment options are selected from a group consisting of a hand delivery to the				
8	recipient in cash, a hand delivery to the recipient in a money order, the crediting of an				
9	account of the recipient, and by the use of a card;				

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11	the recipient;				
12	I	paying	g the recipient the money according to the requested payment option;		
13	and				
14	(creatir	ng an electronic record of the payment.		
1	7	7.	A method as in claim 6, wherein the request to receive the payment is		
2	made from a gr	oup co	onsisting of a telephone request, a computer request over a network, a		
3	letter request, an in-person visit, a voice response unit request, and a personal digital assistant				
4	request.				
1	{	3.	A method as in claim 6, wherein the card comprises a closed-loop		
2	debit card, and further comprising extracting information from the card to access the value				
3	associated with the card.				
1	C	9.	A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises an		
2			d, and further comprising initializing the debit card upon receipt of the		
3	request for payment of the money by the recipient.				
1	1	10.	A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises a stored		
2	value card, and	furthe	er comprising storing a record of the value on the stored value card.		
1	1	11.	A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises a phone		
2	card, and furthe	r com	prising storing a record of pre-paid phone time on the phone card.		
1	* 1	12.	A method as in claim 8, wherein the debit card comprises an internet		
2	cash card, and further comprising storing a record of the money on the cash card.				
1		13.	A method as in claim 8, further comprising initializing the debit card		
2	using a point of sale device to associate an account of the debit card with the electronic				
3	record of the mo	oney.			
1	1	14.	A method as in claim 8, further comprising printing a receipt with a		
2	point of sale device, wherein the receipt has account information that is associated with the				
3	electronic record of the money.				
1	1	15.	A method as in claim 14, wherein the debit card comprises the receipt.		

receiving a request for payment using one of the payment options selected by

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- 1 16. A method as in claim 14, wherein the receipt comprises a sticker that is 2 placed onto the debit card.
- 1 17. A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving a MICR number 2 from a check of the recipient, and wherein the bank account is credited with the money using 3 the MICR number.
 - 18. A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving information on an on-line funds account from the recipient, and wherein the on-line funds account is credited with the money using the information on the on-line funds account.
 - 19. A method as in claim 18, wherein the on-line funds account is selected from a group consisting of on-line money transfer accounts, on-line bank accounts, on-line investment accounts, and on-line auction accounts.
 - 20. A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving a debit card from the recipient, and wherein a bank account associated with the debit card is credited with the money using a return transaction by a point of sale device.
 - 21. A method as in claim 6, further comprising receiving a sender key from the sender and assigning a confirmation code, and further comprising receiving the sender key and the confirmation code from the recipient before providing the money to the recipient.
 - 22. A method as in claim 6, further comprising entering the account information into a point of sale device to credit the account.
- 1 23. A method as in claim 22, wherein the account information is obtained 2 from a group of input devices consisting of a MICR reader that reads a MICR line from a 3 check of the recipient, a mag stripe card reader that reads a mag stripe from a card of the 4 recipient, a keypad that permits manual entry of the account information, an OCR scanner or 5 imager that reads the account from a statement of the recipient, and a biometrics device that 6 identifies a pre-registered recipient that is tied to the account.
- 1 24. A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient 2 with a list of fees associated with each type of payment option.

1	25. A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient			
2	with an option of receiving portions of the money at different times.			
1	26. A method as in claim 25, wherein, if the recipient requests payment of			
2	the money at multiple times, creating an electronic record of each partial payment.			
1	27. A method as in claim 26, further comprising deducting a transaction			
2	fee each time a partial payment is made.			
1	28. A method as in claim 6, further comprising sending the recipient a			
2	message with the payment options.			
1	29. A method as in claim 28, wherein the message is selected from a group			
2	consisting of e-mails, letters, telephone calls, facsimiles, and telegrams.			
1	30. A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient			
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2	with an option of selecting the payment in a different currency or other type of value.			
1	31. A method as in claim 6, further comprising providing the recipient			
2	with an option of receiving a message from the sender.			
1	32. A method as in claim 31, further comprising providing the recipient			
2	with an option of receiving the message in a given language.			
1.	33. A method for transferring money from a sender to a recipient, the			
2	method comprising:			
3	receiving money from the sender along with information on the recipient that			
4	is to receive the money and that the money is to be stored on a stored value card;			
5	creating an electronic record of the money and the intended recipient;			
6	receiving a request for payment by the recipient;			
7	paying the recipient the money by initializing a stored value card and storing			
8	the value of the money on the stored value card; and			
9	creating an electronic record of the payment.			